



VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

MINUTES

6th December 2011, 10.30 – 12.30

European Parliament - Meeting room - A4F384

Participants

Prof. Alfons Buekens	Chairman
Dr Brigitte Dero	ECVM/Deputy General Manager VinylPlus
Mr Joachim Eckstein	Vice-President, VinylPlus
Mr Helmuth Leitner	General Manager ECVM
Mr Jorma Rusanen	Political Secretary, EMCEF
Mr Carlos Sanchez Reyes	Organizacion de Consumidores y Usuarios
Mr Maik Schmahl	Team Leader - Legislation Specific Chemicals and GLP, DG Enterprise & Industry
Mr Gunther Wolff	DG Environment
Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Mr Sajjad Karim	European Parliament, MEP

Apologies:

Ms Soledad Blanco,	Director, DG Environment
Mr Klaus Berend	Head of Unit Chemicals, DG Enterprise & Industry
Mr Gwenole Cozigou	Director, DG Enterprise & Industry
Mr Filipe Constant	Chairman, VinylPlus
Mr Reinhart Reibsch	General Secretary, EMCEF
Mr Stefan Eingärtner	General Manager VinylPlus
Ms Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl	European Parliament, MEP
Ms Karolina Fras	DG Environment



1. Welcome, and Agreement of the Agenda

- Pr Alfons Buekens welcomed the participants, and thanked them for their participation at the seventeen Vinyl 2010 Monitoring Committee meeting
- The agenda was approved

2. Formal Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting (30th March 2011)

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2011 were formally approved, pending modifications made by Maik Schmahl, which will be included in the final version.

3. Launch of the VinylPlus

Helmuth Leitner warmly thanked Mr Sajjad Karim for the speech he gave in June at the European Parliament for the launch of the VinylPlus new commitment. He also asked Maik Schmahl to pass on the same message to Klaus Berend who had also made a speech.

4. VinylPlus Commitment spreading at Global level

See attachment 1

Helmuth Leitner explained that the VinylPlus PVC Voluntary initiative is spreading to other regions in the world. The PVC industry, in some countries, has indeed committed to phased out heavy metals stabilisers in PVC pipes (South Africa) , recycled PVC (Japan), phase-out lead (75% substitution achieved in Brazil), substitute low molecular phthalates in toys, transfusion bags and childcare articles (Korea), etc.... To build sustainability awareness across the value chain is one of the critical challenges identified under the new VinylPlus programme and continuous efforts will be made in that sense/**direction**.

5. What we expect from the political frame:

260,842 tonnes of post-consumer PVC waste were recycled, exceeding the set target of 200 kt from 2000 until 2010. Considering the efforts made during the last 10 years to recycle more than 260,000 tonnes of PVC, VinylPlus is keen to continue its sustainability programme with even more ambitious recycling targets (800,000 kt in 2020). A more favourable political landscape would certainly help, like for example, reduce access to

cheap landfill or tools encouraging public purchasers to ask for articles (when technically feasible) with a recycling content.

The Commission representatives acknowledged the efforts of the vinyl industry to successfully increase recycling of PVC whilst expressing the expectation that the industry would increase its recycling rates as a means to improve the sustainability of PVC. Furthermore, the Commission reiterated the need to move up the waste hierarchy and to promote re-use, recycling and recovery of wastes and to avoid landfilling as far as possible. A recent study on the use of economic instruments and their impacts on Member States shows possible options to provide economic incentives to move away from landfill. The Commission resource efficiency roadmap also points to the need to stimulate recycling through economic incentives and proposes that landfilling is virtually eliminated by 2020 and that high quality recycling be ensured. The Commission has developed Green Public Procurement guidelines which are publicly available; however their diffusion and application could be improved. It is foreseen to review the recycling and recovery targets laid down in the Waste Framework Directive by the end of 2014. In this context, the appropriateness of further steps in order to promote recycling will be analysed.

Joachim Eckstein mentioned also the revision of the Building and construction directive. Everyone agreed that it would be relevant to continue to share information on the above existing instruments and further revisions, in order to fully understand the link between all of them. It was agreed to keep this topic on the agenda.

6. Controlled loop

Helmuth Leitner explained the control loop management (the number one challenge in the VinylPlus Programme). The question of the legacy additives in recyclates like lead and DEHP is addressed on a case by case basis for the time being, referring to the cadmium case previously solved under REACH Annex XV.

He stressed that the current Danish proposal for a restriction under REACH regarding placing on the market certain articles containing four classified phthalates (DEHP, BBP, DBP and DIBP) could have a detrimental impact on the recycling of plasticised PVC. The industry will have to demonstrate that there is no risk and will therefore collect all the necessary information in order to determine the current destination of flexible post-consumer PVC waste. A targeted risk assessment on the uses potentially falling under the scope of the restriction proposal will also be done.

If restrictions are going to be adopted it is indeed crucial to be allowed to recycle flexible PVC.

VinylPlus will inform DG Enterprise and Industry and DG Environment on the progress of the above studies and will seek the Commission support.



Regarding organochlorines (the number two challenge in the VinylPlus programme) Helmuth Leitner informed the Monitoring Committee that two companies will not be verified for emissions in 2011:

- the Slovak plant is owned by a company which is in bankruptcy. They lack funds to complete the heavy investments required to comply.
- the Romanian plant has not been verified because it was operating, either not at all, or at such low capacity that assessing emissions per ton of production would have been meaningless

The issue of dioxin emissions is solved insofar as the waste incinerator must comply with the stringent air emission limitations specified in the Directive 2000/76/EC of 4 December 2000 on the incineration of wastes. It is however still an issue for external stakeholders. A stakeholder event will be organised with TNS in 2012 to address this topic.

7. Additives

See attachment 2 – Brigitte Dero explained that a set of basic criteria for the evaluation of a 'sustainable use of additives' is under development and as part of the VinylPlus Voluntary Commitment. The challenge for 2012 is to further develop these criteria, making them measurable and transparent.

The Commission representatives welcomed very much this approach to look even further than toxicity and indicated that improving the sustainable use of additives was crucial: the past has shown that additives that were used in the past were proven to be harmful at a later stage.

8. Energy/Renewables

It is reported that a VinylPlus Task Force has been established. Evaluation of renewables as base for raw materials and energy will be done. Resin producers will work to reduce their specific energy consumption, targeting 20% by 2020, targets from converters by end 2012.

9. Stakeholder event

See item 6



10. Next meeting

Is scheduled for the 10th April from 10h30 to 12h30 at the European Parliament.

11. AOB

Helmuth Leitner thanked very much all the Committee. It was his last meeting as he will retire at the end of February. Brigitte Dero will take over his position.

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Attachments : 2